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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 02126 011810Z
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP TGEN XM HA
SUBJ: SCIENCE ATTACHE PROGRAM AND GLOBAL ISSUES

REF: STATE 118666

1. PRESENT EMBASSY AND USAID STAFF IS ADEQUATE TO HANDLE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THIS MISSION. THE GOH DOES NOT CONSIDER GLOBAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES TO BE OF IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE. THE AID PROGRAM HAS A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL COMPONENTS INCLUDING AN APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DESIGNED TO MEET THE PROBLEMS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY. PROGRAMS IN SUB-PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION, TRAINING PARA-MEDICAL PERSONNEL, USE OF LABOR-INTENSIVE CONSTRUCTION METHODS, AND CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES; ALL TOUCH ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. DIRECT HIRE AND CONTRACT PERSONNEL, OCCASIONAL TDYS ARE AVAILABLE TO MEET RESULTANT RESPONSIBILITIES. THE USAID, PARTICULARLY ITS OFFICE OF ENGINEERING, MAINTAINS ROUTINE ON-GOING DIALOGUE WITH GOH AGENCIES ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES.

2. THE MAJOR U.S. INTEREST IN HAITI IS OUR EFFORT TO HELP THE COUNTRY IMPROVE THE LOT OF ITS MISERABLY POOR CITIZENRY. GLOBAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES WHICH ARE PART AND PARCEL OF THIS EFFORT INCLUDE:

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A. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS - PARTICULARLY THE EFFECTS OF ALMOST TOTAL DEFORESTATION, EFFORTS TO CONTROL SPREADING DESERTIFICATION, AND THE NEED TO REVERSE MASSIVE SOIL EROSION.

B. HEALTH AND NUTRITION - THE VAST MAJORITY OF HAITI'S POPULATION IS INADEQUATELY NOURISHED AND HAS NO ACCESS TO

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MODERN HEALTH FACILITIES. A MAJOR FACET OF OUR AID PROGRAM AND THE PROGRAMS OF THE OTHER DONORS IS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE AND REDUCE DEATH BY STARVATION.

C. FOOD TECHNOLOGY - HAITI'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IS NO LONGER ABLE TO FEED THE POPULATION. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IS AMONG THE LOWEST IN THE WORLD AND A MAJOR ASPECT OF OUR AID PROGRAM IS AN EFFORT TO RAISE PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY.

D. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER - THE LOW LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY IN HAITI REFLECTS THE COUNTRY'S PRIMITIVE INSTITUTIONS AND ATTITUDES. IT APPEARS THAT EFFORTS TO TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY (PARTICULARLY SIMPLE TECHNOLOGY) SHOULD INVOLVE ALL POSSIBLE CHANNELS, I.E., MULTILATERAL, BILATERAL, BUSINESS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, ETC.
JONES

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